MC0046

HOAW

Scottish Hospital Centre
INFORMATION SHEET

D. S. R.

Domestic Service Room

Published by the Scottish Hospital Centre, Crewe Road South, Edinburgh, 4 October, 1968 Price 2s. 6d.

Introduction

The organisation of domestic services in hospitals and the types of equipment now in use require well planned domestic service rooms. The following recommendations result from direct observation (particularly in ward units), the construction of full size mock-up, and its revision in the light of discussions with domestic superintendents and others during an exhibition at the Centre on " Cleaning in Hospitals."

Operational Policies

This layout is suggested for a standard D.S.R. to serve a whole ward floor of, say, 72 beds, or an equivalent area in other hospital departments. Items of equipment may vary in individual cases as may their associated detailed fixing and storage requirements but this layout should offer a satisfactory basic standard.

Domestic service rooms of this kind are intended for use by a group of three or four domestic staff at one time. (Including shifts this might represent six who would use any single domestic service room). With central changing facilities no separate lockable storage should be required at the domestic service room.

It is clear from the study that both the size and the shape of the room are important. Eighty square feet is considered necessary; particular dimensions can vary but long narrow rooms should be avoided. This example is $8' \times 10'$ and the layout gives effective working space without double parking of equipment.

The servicing of mechanical equipment should be undertaken elsewhere; the normal upkeep and cleaning of equipment would be carried out in the domestic service room together with changing of heads, brushes, etc. Electric power should be available. Washing cloths etc. will be washed and dried in the domestic service room. More working surface is needed next to the sink than is customarily provided. A traditional low level bucket sink with hot and cold water supplies for filling and emptying buckets is considered necessary in addition to the sink at worktop level, and no alternative to this traditional piece of equipment appears to be generally acceptable.

It is assumed that bulk supplies of materials are broken in the central hospital stores area and that these are issued to domestic service rooms on a " topping-up " basis ready for use.

Storage of material and equipment should be on fully accessible open shelves rather than in closed cupboards; floor space should be kept clear for the bulkier items such as buckets and for mobile equipment.

A distinction is made between the disposal facilities in nurse working rooms (dressings, instruments, linen, etc.) and the disposal bags required in the domestic service room (broken glass, crockery, general rubbish).

The pattern of work of a team of domestic staff working from one domestic service room in a department requires simple trolleys with two shelves; typical requirements might be for two small trolleys $1' 6''$ square or for one large one $3' \times 1' 6''$.

Equipment

The following list of equipment and material is typical of what has to be housed in a domestic service room.

Equipment

1. Electric floor polisher/scrubber (1)
2. Vacuum sweeper (2) (including attachments)
3. Impregnated mops (including 1 for high dusting)
4. Three roller-squeeze sponge mops ($2 \times 14''$ for ward use, $1 \times 10''$ for toilet area)
5. Sweeping brush
6. Dust pan
7. Plastic buckets (minimum 2)
8. Deck scrubber
9. Disposal bag stands: 1 waste paper, etc. 1 for empty bottles, broken glass and crockery
10. Domestic trolleys
11. Plastic baskets for dusters, cleaning materials, etc.
12. Towel dispenser and disposal bag
13. Shelves for storage of cleaning materials
14. Towel rail
15. Five-step ladder
16. Peg and clip-board
17. Socket outlet

Cleaning materials

Detergent
Scouring powder
Paste cleaner
Hand soap
Floor polish
Steel wool
Furniture polish
Impregnated mop heads
Dusters
Cutlery cleaner

Other items

Paper towels
Toilet rolls
Disposal bags
Fresh air sprays
Domestic disinfectants
Nylon pads

Approximate space requirements

Trolley (1 large or 2 smaller)	6 sq. ft.
2 disposal stands	9 sq. ft.
Polisher	5 sq. ft.
Vacuum cleaners (2)	5 sq. ft.
Sluice	$2\frac{1}{2}$ sq. ft.
Sink and Draining Board	12 sq. ft.
Bin for soiled paper towels	1 sq. ft.
	$40\frac{1}{2}$ sq. ft.

This information sheet was prepared by an architect, A. R. H. BOTT, and an industrial designer, M. J. BEESE.

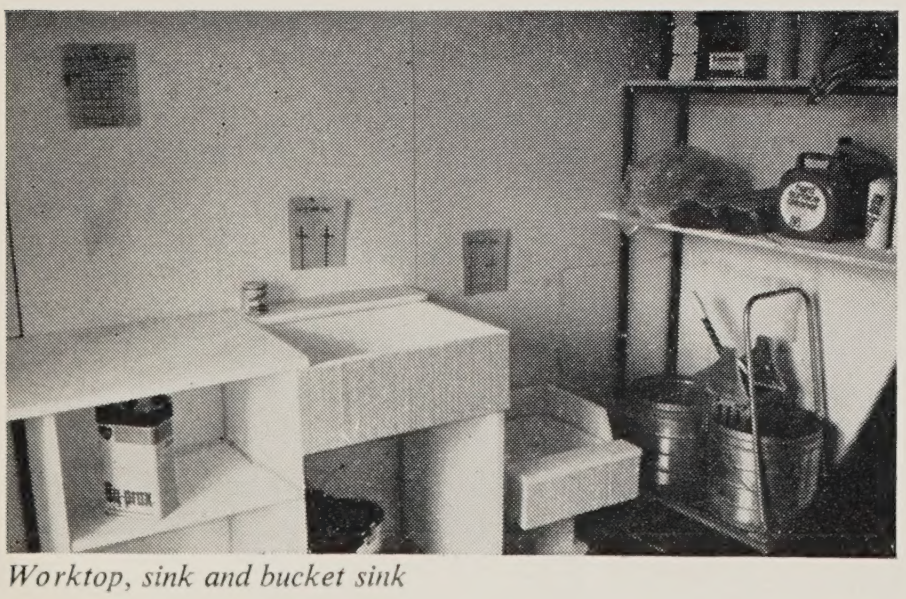
Finishes

Hygienic and easily cleaned finishes are required throughout. A suitable floor finish would be a continuous sheet surface coved at the skirting; the floor level should be continuous with the adjacent corridor. A smooth gloss painted finish offers a satisfactory standard for walls; a splashback might be needed at the sinks.

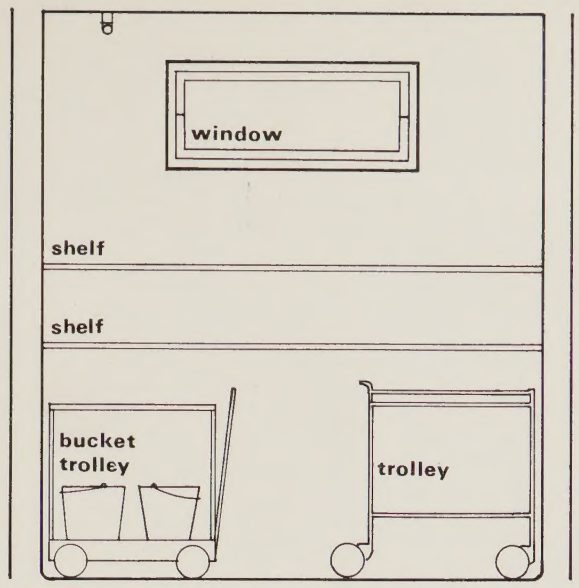
Ventilation and Lighting

Ventilation (natural or artificial) should facilitate the quick drying of such items as mops, pads, dusters, brushes, etc. Lighting should be provided appropriate to the working function of the room which is not merely a store; a worktop illumination value of 10 lumens per square foot would be reasonable.

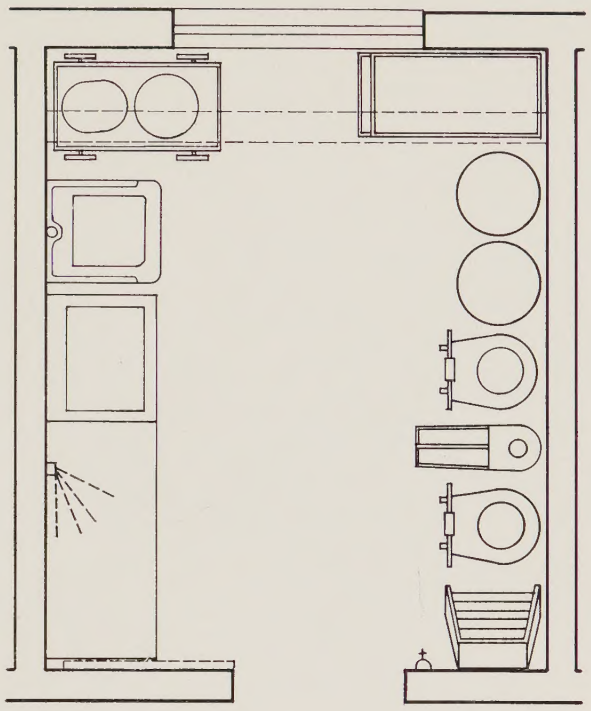
View of mock-up from door



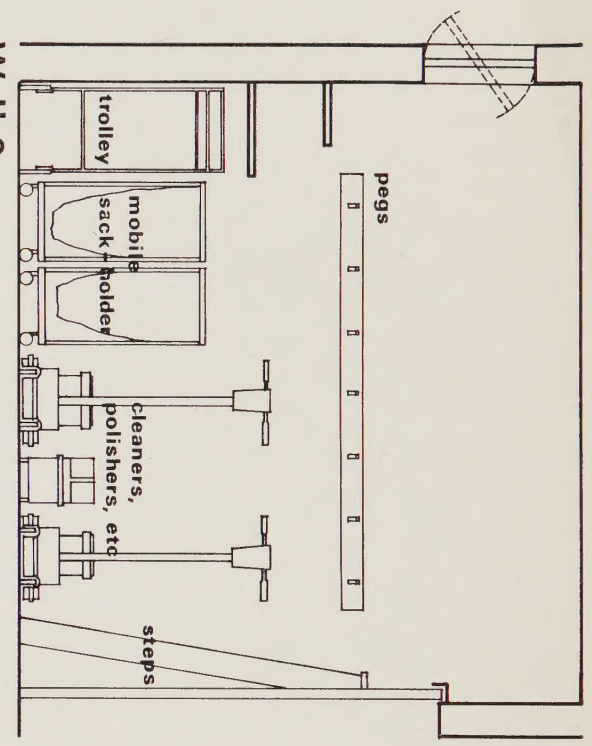
Worktop, sink and bucket sink

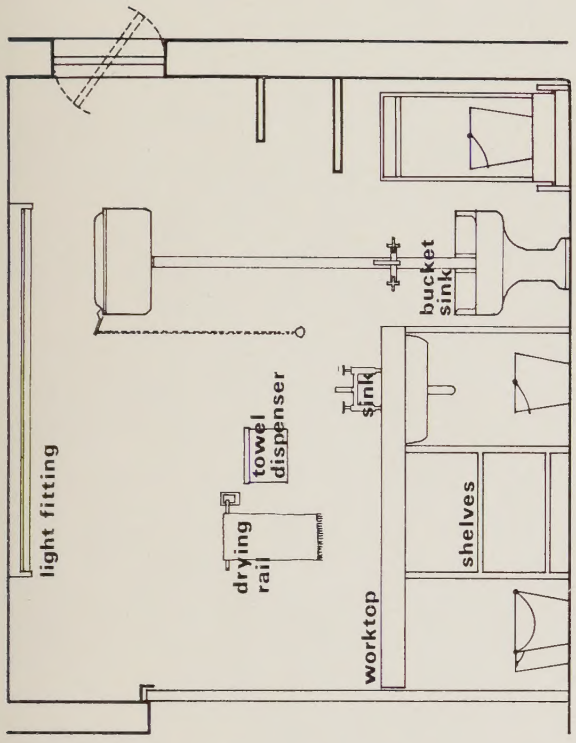


Wall 1

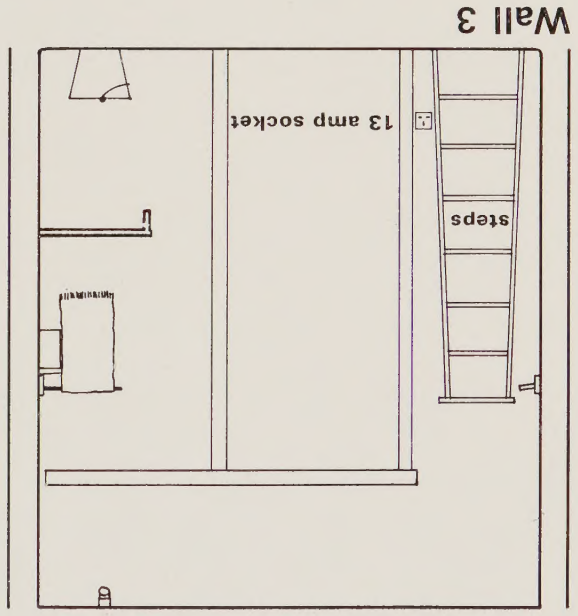


Wall 2

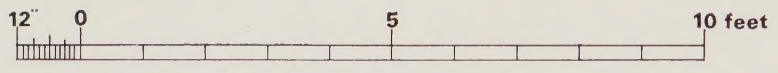




Wall 4



Wall 3



Design Commentary

The following points are noted to amplify the drawings and photographs.

Wall 1

The two shelves, an 18″ deep shelf 3′ 9″ above floor level and a 12″ deep shelf 5′ above floor level, give 20 sq. ft. of shelf space at an accessible height, leaving space for trolleys to be parked underneath. Open shelving is more convenient in use than closed cupboards, and its position at the far end of the room from the door is a disincentive to casual pilfering.

Wall 2

The floor space is kept clear for parking of mobile equipment. Provision is required for hanging up associated hoses, brushes and other equipment. A row of pegs on wall belting at a height not exceeding 5′ 6″ above floor level is satisfactory for general use; other hooks, clips, shelves, etc. may be required for particular items of equipment.

Wall 3

A sliding door offers maximum use of the space within a small room such as this, but a side hung door would serve. A 13 amp. power socket facilitates routine checking of electrical equipment.

Wall 4

A 6′ length of work top at a height of 3′ above floor level, incorporating a sink, is considered necessary. For drying cloths, etc. a swinging towel rail fixture is considered more convenient than the traditional ceiling " pulley." Under the work top a couple of shelves are provided for detergents, etc. in use; the remainder of the floor is kept clear for buckets and other equipment. It is suggested that the ceiling light be off set to give shadow free-illumination of the work top and sinks.

Printed by ALNA PRESS LTD., Broxburn and Edinburgh